TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COUNCIL (TAC)

MINUTES

Date: February 28, 2024

Time: 10:00am

Location: Stephens Conference Room

Present: Wesley Hallman, Brendan Beal, Hilary Dutton, Shafqat Shad, Cassie Raulston, Sheila Brandt, Aaron Mahaney, Amanda Fox, Wyatt Hall, Alicia Smith, Kathy Adams, Coty Jones, Joe Walsh, Barbara Ann Lewis, Tomeiko Scott, Kira Thomas, Amiee Mellon

Absent: Steve Peters, George Lytle, Marcus Lane, Abbie Paul, Josh Miller

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:03

2. Previous meeting's minutes were reviewed and approved with no changes.

3. **IS&T Strategic Plan**-Dr. Walsh advised that there is not much to update regarding the Strategic Plan. He has explored outsourcing that task to an external company. He relayed that the external company who worked on the strategic plan last time cannot get to us until later this year which pushes us out further than wanted. He reached out to other university CIO's within the state and another suggestion was The Tambellini Advisory Group; they have a great proposal but they won't do just a strategic plan. This group prefers to help develop and follow up for a year, but they are out of our price range ($78,000).

   Dr. Walsh advised that he is still exploring options as far as having a consultant come in. Wesley Hallman asked if there would be an issue if we didn't get this rolled out until fall, if we used the other company's timeline. Dr Walsh advised that pushing it out sets us back a year or more which is not ideal as we need a Strategic Plan in place. It is not completely off the table, but just depends. He is waiting to hear back from them on a more accurate timeline and a rough estimate of costs. More updates to come.

4. **Residence Hall Wi-Fi**-John Denson has put together a committee that has met with two vendors, Apogee and Xfinity. Xfinity will be on campus this Thursday while Apogee has already come in. Both companies are solid and would provide relief to the Wi-Fi struggles in the dorms. The estimated cost is slightly more expensive than what we are paying now, but there are talks of ways to address the increase in costs (possibly by adding a fee to the housing costs for students, but that would not come about this current year). Cost estimates from Apogee average around $300,000 a year. Regardless of which company we use, the student Wi-Fi experience will be greatly improved. The plan is for them to come in over the summer so students would have Wi-Fi in the dorms this fall.

5. **Esports**-Brendan Beal advised that the Esports team is having issues with connectivity and computers crashing. They are a varsity sports program, under athletics. They are a 6-figure program that bring in freshmen and other students. They have a full-time head coach and offer scholarships. UM is the first college in Alabama to offer esports scholarships.

   They are, however, hamstrung by some of the things they cannot do through software issues and computer crashes during competitions. They need to be able to stream seamlessly. They hope to grow their team from 30 members to potentially one of the biggest teams on campus.

   E-sports would like to ask IS&T for their help in mitigating some of these issues. Dr. Walsh advised they have his and IS&T's support. Dr. Walsh is willing to meet with the team on an ongoing basis to stay on top of things and alleviate these issues.

6. **CIO Updates**-
   6.1.   The Alternate Email Policy (01:007) approved by the Board in November has been fully implemented. Students, staff, and faculty may now request, through the Alternate Email Request Form, to have an alternate email address that is more readable and personalized. Example: The email address of jsmit12@montevallo.edu can, upon request and approval, be changed to jane.smith@montevallo.edu or

something similar. We have had around 25/26 folks who have requested alternate emails. Students in Vallo Vision have posted about it on their social media in the past few days so word is getting out about the new policy.

6.2. Planning for the relocation of the Solution Center from the library to Morgan Hall remains ongoing with May scheduled as the tentative relocation date.

6.3. The annual computer replacement cycle is underway. Those scheduled for a replacement this year have been notified and are being encouraged to stop by the Solution Center on the ground floor of the library to view available options now on display. This is year two of a three-year cycle for transitioning from leased to purchased devices. The number of devices scheduled to be replaced this cycle is approximately 300.

6.4. IS&T's work with Housing to explore the possibility of outsourcing Wi-Fi in residence halls is underway and on schedule. John Denson has assembled an ad hoc committee, and presentations and proposals by prospective venders have nearly been completed.

6.5. Academic Support has acquired a new Microsoft Endpoint Configuration Manager that will significantly enhance the capacity to remotely deploy and manage software across the enterprise. Staff in Academic Support and Solution Center staff have completed initial training, with additional training scheduled soon.

7. Subcommittee Reports

7.1. **Academic Support**-Barbara Ann advised the committee met February 15th to discuss the applications and voted on February 20th. The top three rooms that will be fully funded are:

> Wallace 100
> Strong 119
> CFA 020

Other rooms that have applied will possibly be funded but that depends on the department being able to cover some of the physical plant costs.

Dr. Walsh inquired about the voting members of this committee, which are all faculty members apart from a

library staff member. Broader representation might be better for areas that are requesting upgrades that aren't specifically classrooms. Student representation might be a beneficial addition. Barbara Ann advised she would take that suggestion back to the committee.

7.2. **Digital Communications**-Committee is officially finalized with all members in place and ready to serve.

7.3. **Executive**-no updates

7.4. **Policies and Procedures**-The committee met two weeks ago and carefully reviewed each of the policy proposals provided by Dr. Walsh. There was discussion of a Data Governance committee that existed prior to covid and possibly brining it back to reign over the procedure. There were a lot of comments and suggestions that were provided to Dr. Walsh and he is reviewing/responding to each one of those. Dr. Walsh feels that it would be important to bring the Data Governance committee back which would serve the campus community and liaison with TAC. It would need to go through executive before recreating this committee. Dr. Walsh will continue to review and address each of the committees concerns and bring them back in a week or two for the committee to review again.

7.5. **Projects and Planning**-Kathy advised that tax forms are out and everything is on track with their timelines.

Additionally, Kathy advised that Randi Tubbs has submitted a request that will allow her position the ability to email all faculty and Dr. Bently has approved on her end. It now comes to TAC for us to review and approve for that permission. Wesley Hallman advised that those requests typically would go through the DCC but since the provost has already approved this, TAC could vote on it. Future requests will go through that committee. Voted and approved with no objections.

8. **Other Business**-UM is currently using 60% of our allowed data through Canvas so we need to be thinking about future policies regarding the storage of that data. We have 10 years of data, while we typically need to keep 5 years of content. We need to form a plan regarding what length time we want to keep this content in Canvas and where we store it after that timeline. They just wanted to go ahead and make the committee aware of

potential concerns as it may go to the Policies and Procedures committee to review and discuss in the future.

9. Meeting Adjourned at 10:59; there will be no March meeting due to Spring Break.